

HERBARIUM TO BE DISPOSED OF.—I learn to my surprise that the Herbarium of the late J. T. Holton, which was carefully boxed up in his lifetime, still remains on the hands of his widow and children. It was long ago understood that his college classmates were to purchase it for four or five hundred dollars, and present it to their alma mater, Amherst College. This has not been done, and the collection could now be had by any botanist at a low price. The herbarium is mainly North American, but contains the full set of the collection which Mr. Holton made in the interior of New Grenada, a great number of *Ericæ* collected and named by Drege at the Cape of Good Hope, etc. The number of species, according to Mr. Holton's memorandum, is 6,895. Address Mrs. S. W. Holton, Everett, Mass.—A. GRAY.

(Mr. Holton also left in his library fourteen consecutive volumes of DeCandolle's *Prodromus*, which his widow would be glad to sell.—ED.)

DIGESTION IN PLANTS.—Dr. Lawson Tait has recently investigated afresh the Digestive Principles of plants. While he has obtained complete proof of a digestive process in *Cephalotus*, *Nepenthes*, *Dionæa*, and the *Droseraceæ*, he entirely failed with *Sarracenia* and *Dartingtonia*. The fluid separated from *Drosera binata* he found to contain two substances, to which he gives the names "droserin" and "azerin." Dr. Tait confirms Sir J. D. Hooker's statement that the fluid removed from the living pitcher of *Nepenthes* into a glass vessel does not digest. A series of experiments led him to the conclusion that the acid must resemble lactic acid, at least in its properties. The glands in the pitchers of *Nepenthes* he states to be quite analogous to the peptic follicles of the human stomach; and when the process of digestion is conducted with albumen, the products are exactly the same as when pepsine is engaged. The results give the same reactions with reagents, especially the characteristic violet with oxide of copper and potash, and there can be no doubt that they are peptones.—NATURE.

FLORIDIAN ALGÆ.—During my recent cruise among the Florida Keys nothing interested me so much as the Sea-weeds. Being familiar with the Algae of the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, I would hardly have believed that many of these belonged to that order, but for some previous acquaintance. Their resemblance to lichens, fungi, and corals is truly wonderful. Knowing the Reef Algae to be much sought for and almost unobtainable, I collected a large quantity of specimens and had excellent success in preserving them. They have been identified by Prof. Farlow, our best authority on Marine Algae, and in December I shall have them ready for distribution, mounted in the best manner on card board  $4\frac{1}{2}$  by  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches in size. They will be issued in three sets, each comprising two dozen species, at three dollars per set.—A. H. CURTISS.